

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached replacement drawing sheet makes changes to Fig. 5 and replaces the original sheet with Fig. 5. The changes insert a "YES" between S5 and S6, a "NO" between S5 and S7, a "YES" between S11 and END and a "NO" between S11 and S8.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet (Fig. 5)

**REMARKS**

Claims 14-31 and 33-34 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 34 is added, and the specification and drawings are amended. No new matter is added by these amendments. Support for claim 34 can be found at page 30, line 20 to page 31, line 5 of Applicant's specification, for example. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiners Nguyen and Poon at the interview held January 29, 2008 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 17-24 contain allowable subject matter.

The drawings are objected to for informalities. Fig. 5 has been amended to insert a "YES" between S5 and S6, a "NO" between S5 and S7, a "YES" between S11 and END and a "NO" between S11 and S8. It is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 14-16, 25-27 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,961,139 to Kita et al. (hereinafter "Kita") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,646,756 to Moriyama et al. (hereinafter "Moriyama"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 14, and similarly claim 33, call for an image forming device comprising a printing speed determining means for predicting compressed data volume based on the image data generated by the image data generation means, and selecting one of the printing speed among the plurality of different printing speed based on the predicted compressed data volume.

The Office Action, on page 5, admits that Kita does not disclose the above-mentioned features of claims 14 and 33. The Office Action, on page 5, states that Moriyama discloses a

print speed determining means (Fig. 1, mode selection apparatus 440) for predicting the compressed data volume based on the image data generated, and selecting a printing speed based on such prediction (col. 2, line 67). However, as discussed during the personal interview, at col. 10, lines 18-63 and Fig 5 of Moriyama, it is explained that the printing mode (used to select the printing velocity) is determined based on the data compression rate. This is dissimilar to claims 14 and 33, which claim that the printing speed is based on the predicted compressed data volume. Therefore, the printing speed of Moriyama is not based on a prediction before the data compression, rather it is based on an actual rate of compression, and thus, Moriyama fails to disclose all of the features of claims 14 and 33.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 28-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kita in view of Moriyama and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0071138 to Ohara.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

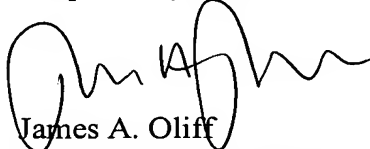
Ohara fails to overcome the deficiencies of Kita and Moriyama as applied to claims 14 and 33.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:RHR/khm

Attachment:

Replacement Sheet (Fig. 5)

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